Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00343 201637Z

20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

/070 W
---------- 047198
R 201625Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7632
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0343

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EI
SUBJ: STAGG FUNERAL

1. THE GOI HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A TOUGH, NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FUNERAL OF HUNGER-STRIKER FRANK STAGG "IN THE INTERESTS OF THE SECURITY OF THE STATE." INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THE PLANE CARRYING THE BODY TO LAND AT DUBLIN AIRPORT, WHERE MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN-IRA WERE WAITING, THE PLANE WAS DIVERTED LAST NIGHT TO SHANNON AIRPORT WHERE THE BODY WAS HELD OVERNIGHT AT THE SMALL AIRPORT MORTUARY. SHANNON AIRPORT WAS RINGED BY ABOUT 200 POLICE, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED SOLDIERS WERE AVAILABLE AT THE AIRPORT FOR SUPPORT. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. LATE THIS MORNING THE BODY WAS FLOWN BY HELICOPTER TO BALLYMOUNT, COUNTY MAYO, FOR THE FUNERAL WHERE SECURITY FORCES ARE ALSO DEPLOYED IN LARGE NUMBERS. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN EXPLICIT IN THE REASONS FOR THESE PRECAUTIONS: "IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY (THE PROVISIONALS) SENT THIS MAN TO HIS DEATH. THEY FAILED TO GET THE ATTENTION THEY SOUGHT AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO ALLOW THE CAPITAL OF THE COUNTRY TO BE USED FOR A PROPAGANDA JAUNT .... THE GOVERNMENT ARE ALSO AWARE THAT A DISPLAY BY SUBVERSIVES COULD SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS." THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SPOKE OF THE "MOST AWFUL INTIMIDATION" AGAINST STAGG'S FAMILY TO GET THEM TO AGREE TO A MILITARY, IRA-STYLE, FUNERAL.
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2. DETAILS OF THE REST OF THE OBSEQUIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS STOLEN THE SHOW, AT LEAST SO FAR, FROM THE PROVISIONALS.
CURLEY

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, EI, SINN FEIN, (STAGG, FRANK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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